southeast missouri



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POSTAL REGULATORY

Postal Regulatory Commission 901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20268

Monday, January 27, 2020

Southeast Missouri Food Bank joins the host of non-profit organizations and alliances urging the Postal Regulatory Commission to <u>reconsider Docket RM2017-3</u>, which could increase postal costs by as much as 40 percent over the next five years.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank, located in Sikeston, Mo., provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs in a 16-county service area that encompasses nearly 10,000 square miles and a population of 370,000. Member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters, senior citizen programs, children's programs, and non-profit rehabilitation facilities.

The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank, which is affiliated to Feeding America, is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities. We rely heavily on donations to execute this mission, and direct mail is still one of the leading ways we communicate with potential donors. Last year we mailed more than 242,000 pieces. Increases in postage costs will greatly curtail our ability to fund-raise and ultimately deliver much needed services in our area, which has some of the highest rates of hunger in the state.

We urge you to <u>cap these increases</u> so that they do not exceed Consumer Price Index. Hungry families in southeast Missouri are depending on you.

Sincerely,

Joey Keys

Chief Executive Officer